

response to the Final Office Action dated July 22, 2002, and (ii) a Petition to Extend Time for a period of three months, up to and including January 22, 2003. Please consider the following amendments and remarks made herein.

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims ~~1-6~~ and ~~10-18~~, without prejudice.

Please amend the Claims ~~7~~ and 19 to read as follows:

Sub F1 7. (Three times amended) A method for irreversibly binding a plurality of sheets together, comprising:

D1 (i) superimposing a sheet having an adhesive strip comprising an adhesive element selected from the group consisting of a glue and a two-sided tape, wherein the tape is adhesive on both surfaces, along at least one of its edges, and a silicone material band, releasably placed on said glue or adhesive tape strip and having at least a portion not coupled to said glue or adhesive tape strip, such that the uncoupled portion may be used to grasp the silicone band during its removal over a second sheet;

(ii) grasping the uncoupled portion of the silicone band; and

(iii) pulling the uncoupled portion of the silicone band so as to uncover the glue or adhesive tape strip and thereby irreversibly bind the two sheets together.

19. (Amended) A method for irreversibly binding sheets together, comprising:

D2 (i) superimposing a plurality of sheets, each having an adhesive strip along at least one of its edges and a silicone material band, releasably placed on said adhesive strip and having a portion uncoupled to the adhesive strip and extending beyond the sheet, such that the adhesive strips of successive sheets are superimposed;